

M-L-Rec file

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22 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

25X1A9a Mr. Zygmunt Nagorski /Intelligence Production Division, USIA/,  
25X1A5a1 [redacted] met on October 16, 1957 with  
[redacted] on the subject of attitudes of youth in the  
Soviet Union. [redacted]

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25X1A5a1 [redacted] spent 30 days in  
Russia this past summer, arriving in Moscow July 27th, the night before  
the Youth Festival.

[redacted] was travelling in the Soviet Union, (Leningrad,  
Pushkin, Tbilisi, Moscow etc.) as a tourist\* and in no way participated  
in the communist-sponsored festival. He remarked that as a mass  
spectacle the opening-day parade was [redacted] of "Nuernberg 1935  
or of Cecil B. DeMille production." [redacted] talked with only one  
U. S. delegate to the festival, but sensed a restlessness among the  
visitors as the "show" dragged on too long. Many [redacted] asked  
why more Americans did not attend the festival. [redacted] explained  
that although the festival outwardly was staged as a meeting-place  
for young people in the cause of peace and friendship, the govern-  
ments of the free world were aware of the true nature of the festival:  
an instrument for communist propaganda. The State Department, there-  
fore, discouraged U. S. participation. As far as [redacted] could  
observe, it would be advantageous to send a much larger, well-briefed  
and well-screened cross section of American anti-Communists to  
Peiping for the next festival in 1959.

25X1A5a1 [redacted] the points of interest brought out in our conversation  
with [redacted] was the fact that the Russian people, especially the  
students, were curious and eager to talk to Americans on all subjects,  
(mostly non-political) with particular emphasis on the American way  
of life. The alleged Anti-Americanism and hostility toward [redacted]  
Capitalist countries were almost non-existent. Furthermore [redacted]  
met only a few people who gave him straight "party-line" answers and  
only one or two who were firm Communist believers. A most significant  
episode took place at the time of [redacted] visit to an agricultural  
institute in Pushkin. (A city where foreigners were not expected to  
travel.) When he arrived at the institute, he was immediately  
surrounded by 80 or more students who anxiously asked such questions  
as "Tell us what really happened in Hungary". They inquired about the  
U. S. attitude toward the banning of the "H" bomb, the average wage

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[redacted] followed a tour arranged by Cosmos Travel Agency.

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and cost of living in the U. S., Negro discrimination and the Ku Klux Klan, ("how many lynchings do you remember last year?"), American propaganda, the military allocation in our national budget, etc. Oddly enough, (unless comprehension was lacking) the students appeared to accept almost all of [REDACTED] answers-even on the question of Suez and Soviet aggression in Hungary. The subject of the Korean war met with considerable stubbornness: the Russians were not the aggressors-the South Koreans, or perhaps, at worst, the North Koreans. 25X1A5a1

Throughout his conversations in large or small groups, [REDACTED] maintained a most workable approach. His Russian is good (although not good enough to pass as a native) and in spite of the fact that he was usually approached in English, he talked to the Russian people in their language.\* First of all, he distinguished between the peace-loving Russian people and the schemes of Khrushchev and the Soviet regime. Secondly, he almost never discussed any controversial subject without mentioning certain weak points of [REDACTED] in the U. S. system as well as strong points in the USSR. [REDACTED] was conscious of very little surveillance and the specific cases cited usually involved the Russians, and not [REDACTED]. 25X1A5a1

In Moscow, [REDACTED] was frequently asked questions about restrictions on tourists coming into the U. S. Russians associate our finger-printing procedure with criminals and do not approve of such an immigration stipulation. [REDACTED] explained that every foreigner, - not just the Soviet people, - must be finger printed upon entering the U. S., but when travelling in this country from city to city, only foreigners with a criminal record must register with the police. He pointed out that he had to surrender his passport to the officials wherever he went in USSR, but that no such demand was made upon foreigners in USA. The crowd listening to these facts seemed to understand the difference. 25X1A5a1

The circulation of American magazines and emigre' publications was mentioned by [REDACTED] interrogators on several occasions. Apparently, Amerika was put on the bookstands in large quantity but no Russian dared to buy it. Westerners coming to the festival would see that this American magazine for Soviet consumption was not selling at all well in Moscow. Another source, who had been in Russia at this same time, commented that usually Amerika is so popular that one could only be sure of procuring a copy immediately after distribution on the newstands. Many Russian students wanted copies of Time and U.S. News and World Report but thought better of accepting them when Garthoff offered sample copies. They also wanted more emigre' publications though it has been reported the influence of such literature on the Russian people is negligible. 25X1A5a1

\*Though unable to pass for a Russian student, [REDACTED] met a group of "stilyagi" on the street and joined in their unsuccessful attempts to pose as Americans who wanted to be accepted in a particular restaurant in Moscow.

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[redacted] was often asked what he liked and disliked most about the Soviet Union. He answered that he disliked the lack of freedom of expression and the obvious suppression of information on the true picture of international events. He indicated that since he had been in Russia, he had no idea what really was going on in the world whereas in the U. S. we find all the news by reading the newspapers and listening to the radio. <sup>25X1A5a1</sup> Some of the Russian people-- in this case, a few Army officers whom [redacted] met <sup>25X1A5a1</sup> were critical of the so-called progress in the USSR. They drove [redacted] past a dilapidated lean-to used as a house. The officer's remark was: "This is what they mean by 'Socialist construction'...They say we will be ahead of the United States in food production and such but as years go by, do they think the U. S. will stand still?" Some of the students reminisced about the Stalinist days when they lived better (?) and mumbled that the Molotov-Malenkov purge was unjustified. It was Malenkov who had looked after their needs! There is ferment among young people all over the Soviet Union. <sup>25X1A5a1</sup> Much of the ideological controversies are bound to "rub off" on the workers now that a law has been passed that students must work for two years before entering an institute of higher learning. This change will undoubtedly expose the working people to problems discussed by the intellectuals.

<sup>25X1A5a1</sup> [redacted] commented briefly on the July purge and the possibility of a military take-over. According to the Russian people he talked with, the Soviet hierarchy follows the order of Khrushchev, Zhukov and Bulganin. Zhukov obviously has more power now than he has ever had before, <sup>25X1A5a1</sup> thereby automatically enhancing the significance of the army. But in [redacted] opinion, the Red general would be the "last word" only in terms of military security; at all times, the Party will remain in control. In the event of a showdown between Zhukov and Khrushchev, it is quite possible that Zhukov (though neither a man who would push for power on his own nor overly politically ambitious) would eventually "come out on top."

We found [redacted] perceptive, intelligent and a lively raconteur. He is presently writing a piece on attitudes of Soviet Youth and preparing an article on his trip to the USSR [redacted]

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His observations in Moscow and Pushkin, the questions asked him and his answers, and his general conclusions are thoroughly consistent with those Americans who have previously reported on their conversations with Russians at the time of the Festival.

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